Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1.   (Currently amended) A method for tracking telephone plan minute status, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

initializing a first timer, having ~~wherein the timer~~ [[has]] timer information, including a time block designation and a timer usage variable, associated therewith;

adding ~~the~~ time used by a call to the timer usage variable if the call was made within the time block designation associated with the first timer; and

notifying ~~the~~ a user of predefined timer information.

2.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

initializing a second timer, having ~~wherein said second timer~~ [[has]] timer information, including a second time block designation and a second timer usage variable, associated therewith.

3.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined timer information includes a value associated with the timer usage variable.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined timer information includes time limits associated with the time block designation.

5.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the predefined timer information includes the time limits minus a value of the timer usage variable.

6.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

receiving from the user time block information to initialize a timer ~~from the user~~.

7.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

setting each [[the]] time block designation associated with each timer based on a

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time block defined by a calling plan structure.

8.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2, wherein each [[the]] time block designation associated with each timer comprises at least one beginning time and at least one ending time.

9.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2, wherein each [[the]] time block designation associated with each timer comprises at least one beginning date and at least one beginning time and at least one ending date and at least one ending time.

10.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
        resetting the timer usage variable.

11.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of:
        resetting the timer usage variable periodically.

12.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said notifying step further comprises the step of:
        sending an electronic message to the user.

13.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said notifying step further comprises the step of:
        transmitting timer information on a computer network to [[a]] the user.

14.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said notifying step further comprises the step of:
        receiving a user request for timer information through a voice mail system; and
        transmitting timer information to said the user through the voice mail system.

15.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~: protecting the <u>predefined</u> timer information with a user password.

16.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~: charging a fee to access the <u>predefined</u> timer information.

17.   (Currently amended)   A system for tracking telephone plan minute status, comprising:

a computer; and

a software program loaded onto said computer configured to:

initiate a timer, wherein the timer has information, including a time block designation and <u>a</u> timer usage variable, associated therewith[[,]];

add [[the]] time used by a call to the timer usage variable if the call was made within the time block designation associated with the timer[[,]]; and

notify [[the]] <u>a</u> user of predefined timer information.

18.   (Currently amended)   The system of claim 17, wherein the predefined timer information includes [[the]] <u>a</u> value of the timer usage variable.

19.   (Currently amended)   The system of claim 17, wherein the predefined timer information includes [[the]] <u>a</u> time limit associated with the time block designation.

20.   (Original)   The system of claim 17, wherein said software program is further configured to reset the timer usage variable periodically.

21.   (Original)   The system of claim 17, wherein said software program is further configured to protect information associated with the timer with a password.

22.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, further comprising:

a computer network in communication with said computer and configured for

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allowing the user to access the <u>predefined</u> timer information.

23.   (Withdrawn) A system for tracking telephone plan minute status, comprising:

a telephone and;

a software program loaded onto said telephone configured to initiate a timer, wherein the timer has information, including a time block designation and time usage variable, associated therewith, add the time used by a call to the timer usage variable if the call was made within the time block designation associated with the timer, and notify the user of predefined timer information.

24.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 23, wherein the predefined timer information includes the value of the time usage variable.

25.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 23, wherein the predefined timer information includes the time limit associated with the time block designation.

26.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 23, wherein said software program is further configured to reset the timer usage variable periodically.

27.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 23, wherein said software program is further configured to protect information associated with the timer with a password.

28.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 23, further comprising:

a computer network in communication with said computer and configured for allowing the user to access the timer information.

29.   (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 23, wherein said telephone is a wireless telephone.

30.   (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 23, wherein said telephone is a digital telephone.